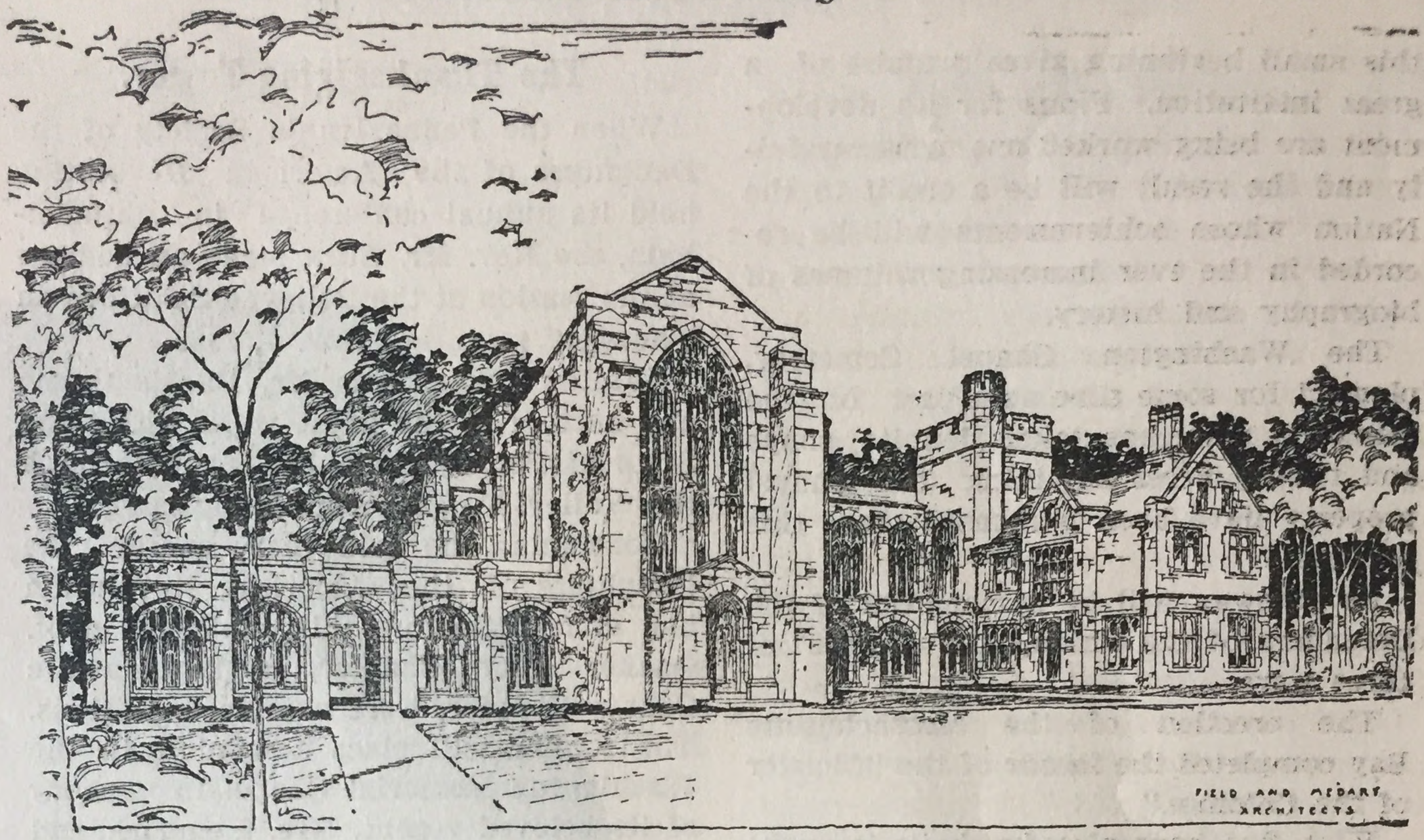
"For God and Country."



Cloister of the Colonies. Washington Memorial Chapel. Patriots' Hall. Tower and Rectory.

"No spot on earth—not the plains of Marathon, nor the passes of Sempach, nor the place of the Bastile, nor the dykes of Holland, nor the moors of England—is so sacred in the history of the struggle for human liberty as Valley Forge."

—CYRUS TOWNSEND BRADY.

The Washington Chapel Chronicle

Valley Forge.

A RECORD OF RELIGION AND PATRIOTISM.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE WASHINGTON CHAPEL GUILD.

MISS EMMA W. CRAWFORD, Editor. MRS. ROBERT WOOD, Business Manager

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1909--1910.

The New Year begins with bright prospects for the Washington Memorial Chapel and all friends of this work will rejoice in them. From the very beginning the progress has been steady and every year has left its monuments, but no year has equalled 1909. When that year began, the workmen were putting in place the beautiful stone pulpit, lectern and perclose given by Mrs. Alan Wood, Jr. These were dedicated on Washington's birthday.

The Valley Forge Museum of American History was formally opened on the same day. Since then its collections have increased rapidly through gifts and purchases until the single room is too small for the proper exhibition of the treasures.

By the purchase of Washington's Marquee, the Museum has gained a national recognition, and its collections have been enhanced in value. Just before the close of the year the Museum Endowment Fund was started by Miss Chew. This will be an important factor in the future development of the Museum.

When the Museum was opened, the Washington Memorial Library occupied a few shelves in a single bookcase. But

this small beginning gives promise of a great institution. Plans for its development are being worked out most carefully and the result will be a credit to the Nation whose achievements will be recorded in the ever increasing volumes of biography and history.

The Washington Chapel Cemetery, planned for some time as a part of the memorial plan, has taken definite shape and twenty acres adjoining the Chapel property have been purchased for this purpose.

Its gateway will be a memorial of the Defenders of the Union, the heroes of three wars.

The erection of the Massachusetts Bay completed the facade of the "Cloister of the Colonies."

With five bays already built it ought not to take long to secure the remaining eight, especially if other State societies have the spirit of the Massachusetts Society, Sons of the American Revolution.

The popularity of the handsome "Pews of the Patriots," is most gratifying. Before the close of the last year all the pews were taken except the President's Pew and one of the screens was promised.

The front door, the gift of Colonial Chapter, Daughters of the Revolution, would have been in place before Christmas had the inscription been ready.

The year closed with the generous gift from Mr. Lewis. of five hundred dollars toward the completion of the walls.

This record, important as it is, does not include the memorials which have been promised. Without these, the list is an impressive one. It tells of substantial results and it must bring to all who are working for this great National Memorial, a new enthusiasm, as well as a sense of gratitude and the happiness of achievement.

The Chapel Calendar which the Rev. Mr. Finn planned, could not be produced in time for Christmas, if it were to be what he desired. Its publication has not been abandoned, but only postponed.

The Thanksgiving Tower.

When the Pennsylvania Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution held its annual conference in Philadelphia, the Rev. Mr. Burk made an address at the session at the Bellevue-Stratford on Thursday morning, Nov. 4, 1909.

"Valley Forge" was Mr. Burk's theme and he told of the great work which the State of Pennsylvania had done through the Valley Forge Park Commission.

Continuing, he said that so far the Daughters of the American Revolution had done little for this hallowed spot. Quaker City Chapter, and Delaware County Chapter, were notable exceptions. The former will place a window in the Washington Memorial Chapel in memory of its beloved regent, Mrs. Kendrick, and the latter will give one of the Pews of the Patriots.

The Daughters of the Revolution had erected the first monument at Valley Forge, at a cost of $10,000, had built the first replica of the soldiers' hut, and the Colorado Society had given the Continental Army Pew, while Colonial Chapter was giving the Washington Door, and Liberty Bell Chapter, a pew.

Mr. Burk then spoke of the excellent opportunity for a noble monument at Valley Forge, offered by the Thanksgiving Tower. Forty-five thousand dollars would be required for this work, but Mr. Burk said he did not ask the Daughters of the American Revolution to give this much. If they gave $20,000, the balance would come from the "Steps of Fame," each of which would be a memorial. Of these there will be one hundred and each will cost $250. This includes the inscription tablet of cast bronze and the endowment.

Such a monument could be easily erected by the Daughters of the American Revolution, for if each Daughter gave ten cents a year for three years, the $20,000 would be raised.

The Thanksgiving Tower will be the most prominent feature of the Valley

Forge memorial, and will be seen from all parts of the encampment. It will be twenty-four feet square and one hundred feet high. Its entrance will be at the end of the "Porch of the Allies" farthest from the Chapel, and will form the approach to the large assembly hall and museum in the second floor of the Patriots' Hall. The tower will be built of Holmesburg granite to correspond with the other buildings, and the cut stone will be Indiana limestone. It will be lined with the latter material, and will contain memorial tablets.

The stairway to the second floor and to the bell floor will be granite with a railing of bronze. Each step will be a memorial of an American patriot. The memorial tablets will be set on the risers, and these "Steps of Fame" will be of the deepest historic interest.

There will be thirteen bells in the chime, each representing one of the original colonies, and bearing an inscription of dedication cast in the bell. It is probable that all these bells will be memorials. The chime will be cast by the Meneely Bell Company, which cast the present Liberty Bell and Columbian Bell.

The roof of the tower will be used as an observatory, and will be surrounded by a turreted wall. Surmounting the whole structure will be the staff for the flag, and the tower and flag will be one of the landmarks at Valley Forge.

The Delaware Bay.

Will the Delaware Bay be the next to be erected in the "Cloister of the Colonies?" It is probable that this question will be answered in the affirmative, for through the efforts of Mrs. E. Tatnall Warner, of Wilmington, the question of the proper representation of Delaware at Valley Forge has been brought before the citizens of that state. The Colonial Dames have already taken favorable action, and a committee has been appointed to co-operate with the other patriotic societies of Delaware.

Pews of the Patriots.

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Baugh, of Philadelphia, will give No. 25 of the "Pews of the Patriots."

This announcement is most gratifying and indicates the popularity of these handsome memorials. With the exception of the President's Pew all the pews are taken. There are twelve in place, one is reserved, one has not been ordered, but the others are nearing completion, and in a very few weeks will be set in place. It is safe to say that no church in America has pews to be compared with those of the Washington Memorial Chapel. Their historic interest appeals to our visitors, as strongly as do their artistic qualities. They represent the patriotism of the past and of the present.

Pew No. 22 will be given by the Delaware County Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.

Pew No. 24 will be the Navy Pew, and will be given by Liberty Bell Chapter, Daughters of the Revolution.

The Rev. Stephen Bloomer Balch Pew has been in place for several weeks, but lacks the inscription plates.

The Corey-Gardner-Downing Pew is also in place. It bears the following inscription:

To the Glory of God
and in memory of
Three Soldiers of the Revolution
Captain Timothy Corey
October 17, 1741—September 19, 1811.
Caleb Gardner
September 23, 1755—November 17, 1807.
John Downing
February 1, 1766—September 12, 1852.
"A man who was not afraid to die."
This pew is given by their great-granddaughter
Lizzie G. Corey Gerry,
July 4, 1909.

In an earlier number of the Chronicle there was a description of the screens designed to separate the front pews from the cross aisle before the choir. One of

these has been promised. Much thought has been given to this design, and the result is most admirable.

THE PATRIOTS' HALL.

THE FOUNDERS' CERTIFICATES.

Cornelius Amory Pugsley, New York, N. Y.	1 00
Christopher Rhodes, Providence, R. I.	1 00
Louis R. Cheney, Hartford, Conn.	5 00
H. Wales Lines, Meriden, Conn.	1 00
Henry Johnson Hersey, Denver, Colo.	1 00
Guy Huntington Richards, West Orange, N. J.	1 00
Knickerbocker Chapter, D. A. R., New York, N. Y.	5 00
Gen. Irving Hale, Denver, Colo.	1 00
Warren and Prescott Chapter, D. A. R., Boston, Mass.	5 00
Col. George Viele Lauman, Chicago, Ill.	3 00
Caroline A. Selbert, Frankfort, Ky.	1 00
	$25 00
Previously reported	667 00
	$692 00

The Washington Door.

The "Washington Door," to be placed at the entrance of the Chapel porch is almost ready. It is a beautiful piece of work, and will be one of the most attractive features of the Chapel. The dark oak is relieved by shields bearing the arms of Washington and the allied families in England, etc. The door is the gift of Colonial Chapter, Daughters of the Revolution—a chapter that has done much for Valley Forge. The inscription will be carved on the upper stile. Heavy strap hinges of cast bronze will be used.

The door is such a work of art that it will probably be placed on exhibition in Philadelphia, before it is shipped to the Chapel.

Valley Forge Museum of American History.

PERPETUAL PATRONS AND PATRONESSES.

(Those who have contributed $200 to the Endowment Fund.)

Miss Sarah R. Chew,* New Jersey.

LIFE PATRONS AND PATRONESSES.

(Those who have contributed $50 to the Endowment Fund.)

Mrs. Erastus Gaylord Putnam, New Jersey.

BENEFACTORS, 1910.

(Those who have contributed $1.00 or more for the maintenance of the Museum for 1910.)

Miss Eleanor H. Stroud, Pa.	$2 50
Miss Marian B. Maurice, Ga.	1 00
Mrs. Samuel Ames, R. I.	1 00
Mrs. A. Graham Reed, Pa.	1 00
Mrs. John Collins Bliss, N. Y.	1 00
Mrs. Frank Larkin, R. I.	1 00

*Payment on account.

The Christmas decorations at the Chapel have always been remarkably beautiful, but this year they far surpassed all others. The people of Valley Forge had faithfully done their part, sending the beautiful star and a dozen large thick wreaths and many small ones, which were a great addition and looked lovely against the gray stone pillars. The wagon loads of greens testified to the loyalty of other Chapel members, and fulfilled their desires that the loved Chapel should be fittingly decorated for the Christmas festival. Every board and rafter was completely covered with green. This effect of a fairy forest was wonderfully heightened by the snow without. One felt that in such characteristically Colonial Valley Forge surroundings something of the true George Washington spirit must hover over this beautiful memorial and be an inspiration filling all hearts with courage, "peace and good will."

Washington Memorial Chapel,
Valley Forge, Pa.

THE REV. W. HERBERT BURK
MINISTER IN CHARGE,
ALL SAINTS RECTORY, NORRISTOWN.

THE REV. FRANCIS T. H. FINN
ASSISTANT,
PORT KENNEDY.

Mr. Frank Quigg, Treasurer,
Port Kennedy, Pa.

Mr. Leslie Jefferis,
Treasurer of the Building Fund,
Bridgeport, Pa.

William Rumford, Sexton.

Sundays.

2.30 P. M. Sunday School and Bible Classes.

3.45 P. M. Service and Sermon.

Second Sunday of the month, 10.30 A. M. Service, Sermon and Holy Communion.

Stewart Fund Hall
Sundays.

10.00 A. M. Sunday School and Bible Classes.

11.00 A. M. Service and Sermon.

Calendar.

Jan. 16. Second Sunday after Eipiphany.

Jan. 23. Septuagesima Sunday.

Jan. 25. Conversion of St. Paul.

Jan. 30. Sexagesima Sunday.

Feb. 2. Presentation of Christ in the Temple, 10 a. m. Guild meeting, Stewart Fund Hall, King-of-Prussia, throughout the afternoon.

Feb. 6. Quinquagesima Sunday.

Feb. 9. Ash Wednesday.

Feb. 12. Lincoln's Birthday.

Feb. 13. First Sunday in Lent.

Mr. Rumford reports that from Jan. 1, 1909, to Thanksgiving Day, 3398 persons signed the register at the Chapel. As only a small percentage of visitors take the time to sign their names these figures will give some idea of the Chapel's popularity.

Christmas Service at the Chapel.

On Christmas Day at the Chapel there was a good congregation in spite of the bitter winds without, but the laurel and warmth and cheer within made a contrast; and a comparison that some have learned full well through experience that of the bleakness and barrenness of a selfish world, and the beauty and blessings of the church.

Miss Mary S. Stephens was organist as usual and the choir well represented. The assistant, the Rev. F. T. H. Finn, preached the sermon from the text St. Luke 2: 15, and made announcement that word had come from the rector of the gift of five hundred dollars from Mr. Lawrence Lewis, of Philadelphia, toward the completion of the Chapel walls.

Christmas Festivals.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

According to the established custom the festival of the Sunday School of the Chapel was held on the afternoon before Christmas.

The carols were well sung under the direction of Mr. H. E. Kratz, and there were but few desertions when the time came for recitations.

They were all good, but Master George Todd, the youngest member of the school, gained most applause by a speech right bravely done.

There were some splendid showings made for attendance, but the deep snows and hot suns make it no sinecure to hold a perfect record.

The following of the officers, teachers and scholars were the prize winners:

Miss A. W. Pechin, Miss Mary S. Stephens, Miss Jane Stoddart, Miss Eleanor Andrews, Miss Martha Andrews, Miss Alva Andrews, John Hughes, David Beynon, Charles Gebhart.

The young people had used laurel in decorating the Sunday School room with good effect.

Twenty-six volumes of the Elsie Dins-

more series were presented to the school at the festival by Miss Helen W. Ebert, of Germantown—a niece of Mrs. Charles Comfort, of Norristown.

Mrs. S. S. Zulich, who has ever been the school's good friend, gave the Christmas candies again, and the little people went down the hills rejoicing.

AUXILIARY SUNDAY SCHOOL.

The Christmas festival of the Auxiliary Sunday School of the Chapel was held at Stewart Fund Hall, King-of-Prussia, on Thursday evening, December the twenty-third.

The hall had been made beautiful with long ropes and festoons of laurel, but the little people had eyes only for the Christmas tree ladened with gifts. Was it worth while for Miss Mary Pugh and the others to practice so faithfully for five weeks past with the carols? Was it worth while for Mr. Yoder and Mr. Croskey and their helpers to spend long evenings with the laurel? Were the gifts and recitations and Santa Claus worth while?

All these questions were answered completely and satisfactorily by the spirit of appreciation in the crowded hall.

The only shade of sadness was the absence of the rector, the Rev. W. Herbert Burk, but even that was lightened by the tidings of his convalescence. The Rev. F. T. H. Finn was present and made a short address and Mr. E. T. Boggs urged the boys and girls to find the pattern for their lives in the little child born in Bethlehem of Judea nineteen hundred years ago.

The names of those winning prizes for attendance follow:

Miss Mary Pugh, Miss Tacey H. Brooke, Clara R. Williams, Ruth Rahn, Anna Leamy, Annie Kopicsak, Ethel Leamy, George Mallory, Howard Leamy, Frank Malloy.

Captain Rodenbaugh has given one of the old Government hand-cuffs to the Museum and also an interesting Italian revolver.

Honor Roll.

The names of those missing no session of the Sunday School during the month of December, follow:

BIBLE CLASS.—Mr. E. T. Boggs, teacher. John Warriner, Mrs. Pechin, Mrs. Warriner, Miss Cutler.

GIRLS' CLASS.—Miss A. W. Pechin, teacher. Eleanor Andrews, Esther Wheatland, Carrie Reifinger, Martha Andrews, Alva Andrews, Rose Cutler, Elizabeth Fulton, Lulu Fulton.

BOYS' CLASS.—Rev. F. T. H. Finn, teacher. James Kooker, John Hughes, David Beynon, Francis Fenimore, Robert Wood, Willie Stephens.

INFANT CLASS.—Miss Mary S. Stephens, teacher. Ruth Epright.

The regular monthly meeting of the Guild was held on Wednesday, January 5th, at Mrs. Charles Todd's, Port Kennedy. Following the Christmas blizzard the condition of the roads was very bad and a driving sleet storm made travel even more unpleasant. In spite of these unfavorable conditions seven members and two guests were present, proving that something of the dauntless perseverance of Colonial times lives in the Chapel workers. The minutes of the previous meeting and the treasurer's report were approved. The secretary then read a communication from Miss Mary Stephens thanking the Guild for her Christmas gift. The President then spoke of Mrs. Jefferis' suggestion that at the next meeting at King-of-Prussia the members should go in the morning, take their lunch and work on the rag-carpet. A motion to that effect was carried and the secretary was asked to notify the members. February 22d seems distinctively a Chapel Day, and it was thought fitting that some entertainment be held at the Chapel then. The nature of the festivity will be decided upon later. The meeting adjourned to enjoy the delicious refreshments served by the hostess.

Norristown Herald, July 3, 1850.

History of the Valley Forge.

BY HENRY WOODMAN.

LETTER III.

In my last it was mentioned that during a part of the Revolution, owing to the destruction of property and other causes, the manufactory of iron at this place was for a while suspended.

This destruction of property was owing to the burning of the Valley Forge, or rather the buildings of all kinds connected with the establishment by a detachment of British soldiers, under the command of Col. Grey; the destroying of timber necessary for manufacturing purposes and the subsequent unsettled state of the country during the war.

Every person who is acquainted with the history of our country, and particularly of the Revolution, knows that this was indeed a gloomy period of its existence, as some yet living can testify. Struggling against an army of superior numbers, well disciplined and well furnished with every necessary to carry on the war with vigor, in punishing and bringing into subjection a people whom they considered their rebellious subjects —every means was resorted to, to compel obedience to their authority, and to reduce, and if possible crush, our veteran troops who were destitute of almost all the necessaries of life, poorly fed, more poorly clothed, and still more poorly sheltered from the inclemency of the weather.

I have often heard my father, who was one of the number, describe the situation of himself and companion in arms, who after a fatiguing and forced march during an inclement day, many of them in this destitue condition, suffering from cold and hunger, and leaving the ground over which they marched, marked with the blood that flowed from their almost naked feet. In this situation when night had overtaken them, they have laid down on the bare ground with no other canopy but the shades of night with their knapsacks for pillows, and wrapping themselves in their blankets, they have lain down and awoke covered with snow.

This was the particular situation of our army during the years of 1776 and 1777 and it was near the close of the last year, as mentioned in my first letter, that part of the army, with the Commander-in-Chief, retired into winter quarters at Valley Forge.

Every movement of the Continental army was watched with the keenest scrutiny, and such was the unsettled state of the Colonists at that period, that in many places the parties in favor of one or the other of the contending parties were so nearly balanced that they might be compared to a pair of nicely adjusted scales—the addition of a very small matter would cause one or the other to have the preponderance.

Previous to the American army encamping at the place, and while the possession of the city of Philadelphia, during the ensuing winter, by either party was uncertain, the Valley Forge was selected as a suitable place for the depository of the military stores, arms and ammunition and the provisions belonging to the Continental army. The selection was made on account of its secluded situation and distance from the supposed route of the British army under General Howe in its march from the Chesapeake Bay to form a junction with General Burgoyne, who, with the army under his command, were on their route from Canada by way of the Lakes, to get possession of the city of Philadelphia in their march; and, as it was also believed by many, that they had this place in view for winter quarters, in case the enemy succeeded in getting possession of the city of Philadelphia, believing the inhabitants in that section of the country were less loyal than in some other places and that they generally favored the American cause.

However correct this last position

may have been in general and however patriotic the most of them might have been, yet from this there were some exceptions.

It must be acknowledged that there were some, though not in the immediate vicinity of the place, or residing in that portion of the country which I mean particularly to describe, ready to convey the information to the enemy; and one, if not more, who acted as pilot to conduct a detachment of the British army to the place, who succeeded in destroying the most of the buildings belonging to the manufacturing establishment and such part of the stores, arms, ammunitions and provisions as had not been hastily removed to the other side of the river Schuylkill.

At the time of the conflagration, the manufacturing of iron at the place was carried on by a person who will occupy a conspicuous place in this account, named William Dewees, in connection with some members of the Potts family.

Whether he, at this time, owned any part of the real estate I cannot say.

He was then married to his second wife, his former one having been a Potts, but whether or not a sister to Isaac and David Potts, mentioned in my last letter, I have never fully informed myself.

It was in part owing to this marriage connection that William Dewees, in his lifetime, founded a claim on government for damages for losses sustained by the burning of Valley Forge by the British; and about nine years after his death was successfully prosecuted by his widow and some of his heirs, which I merely hint at here, as I shall probably enter more into its details in some future communications.

His second wife was the daughter of a wealthy and respectable inhabitant, named Thomas Waters, residing in the Great Valley, about two miles east of the place—of whom some notice will be taken hereafter.

William Dewees was at the time a colonel of the Continental militia, and served a campaign in the field during the war of the Revolution. Owing to the commission and rank he held in the army, he was rendered particularly obnoxious to the enemy; and they, of course, resorted to every means in their power to harass and, if possible, to take him prisoner.

On this account the place of depository for the military stores at Valley Forge was strongly opposed by Col. Dewees (as he will henceforth be called) and his wife, they being almost certain that the buildings would be destroyed on account of his connection with the army, and, of course, it could not be a safe depository for them. The sequel proved the soundness of their views.

In my next I shall resume the subject.

The next meeting of the Guild will be held at Stewart Fund Hall, King-of-Prussia, Wednesday, February 2d. The members are asked to come about ten o'clock, bring their lunch and sew on the rag carpet.

On the Sunday after Christmas the organist and a member of the choir braved drifts and impassable roads, crossing the fields on horseback to attend the Chapel service.

December 13th was the third anniversary of the Rev. Mr. Finn as Mr. Burk's assistant. In the three years he has won the love not only of the members, but also of the community. His gentle manners, kindly spirit, and sympathetic helpfulness have been a strong argument for our holy religion.

The Rev. Mr. Burk who became ill with diphtheria after a funeral on December 4th, is still quarantined in the rectory. While he has recovered from the disease, his heart is affected to such a degree that he has been unable to sit up, even in bed. A slight improvement in his condition is now reported.